

Annotated Artwork

Christ in Majesty with Symbols of the Four Evangelists

1150 1200

Unidentified artist, Spanish (Catalan), 12th century,

Christ
The main subject of the painting, Christ is located in the center with an elaborately designed halo and background. He is holding piece of scripture and appears to be teaching. Christ and the Catholic Church were the center of public life during the Middle Ages. His central location in the painting and large features lend credence to his powerful status in the culture during the Middle Ages.

Matthew
Symbolized as a human, Matthew is the author of the first gospel. He represents humanity and reason. He taught Catholics in the Middle Ages to use their reason in their quest for salvation.

Mark
Symbolized as a lion, Mark is the author of the second gospel. He represents courage. He taught Catholics in the Middle Ages to be courageous in their quest for salvation.

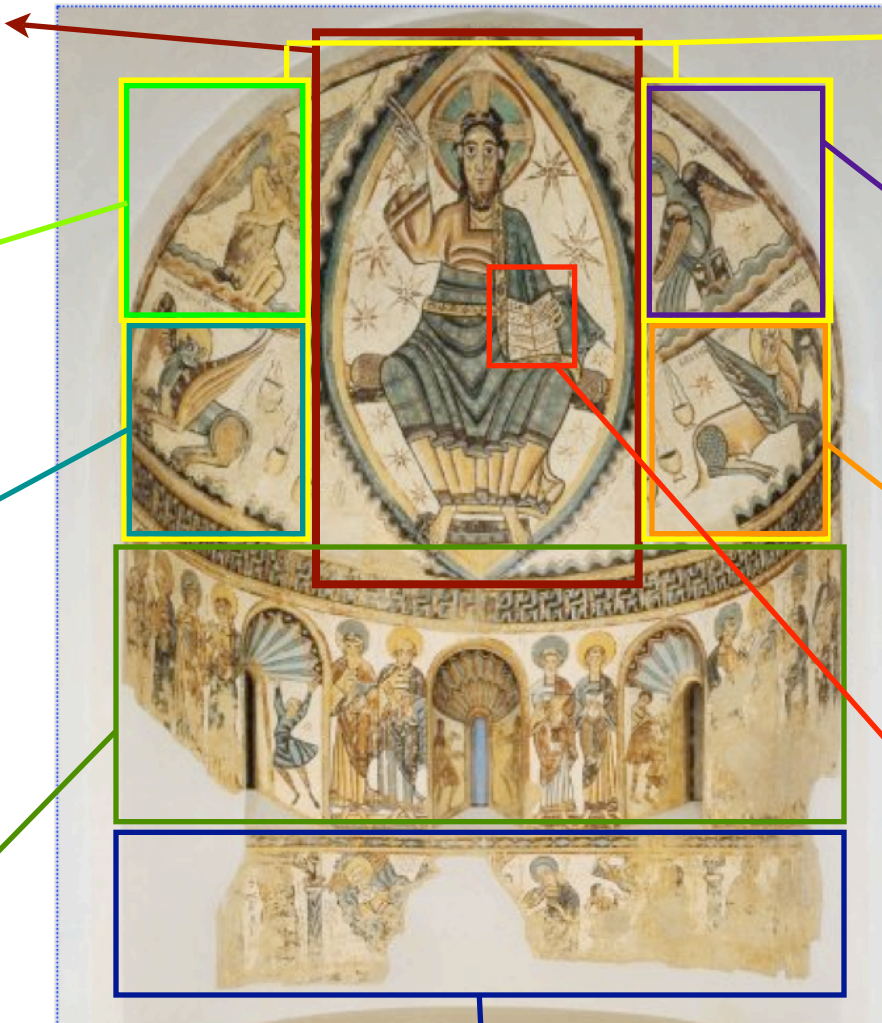
12 Apostles
The original followers of Jesus, the 12 apostles were the messengers and ambassadors of Christ and his message. The work of the apostles is what helped Christianity grow to where it was in the Middle Ages. They are considered important and famous Christian characters.

Four Evangelicals
Also known as the four gospels, Mark, John, Matthew, and Luke are the alleged authors of the new testament portion of the Bible which contains the stories and lessons pertaining to Jesus. During the Middle Ages, most people could not read the Bible (in latin) however it served a huge role within the confines of the holy orders where it was used to teach.

John
Symbolized as an eagle, John is the author of the fourth gospel. He represents high level theology and devotion. He taught Catholics in the Middle Ages to be devoted in their quest for salvation.

Luke
Symbolized as an ox, Luke is the author of the third gospel. He represents sacrifice. He taught Catholics in the Middle Ages to be prepared to sacrifice in their quest for salvation.

Scripture
In the book held by Jesus, there is scripture that reads: "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh into the Father but by me." This passage further reinforces the power of the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages. The Church Controlled nearly everything much like Jesus controls everything according to the passage.



Biblical Scenes

The biblical scenes on this dome are well worn away. However in churches throughout the Middle Ages, biblical scenes were quite common. Most of the public was illiterate so paintings in churches were often how most people got information about stories from the Bible.